

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-8 currently remain in the application. Claims 9-15 have been withdrawn and are to be canceled upon allowance of the application. Claim 1 was earlier amended. No claim is herein amended.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Yoshizawa. Rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. 102 is justified only when each of the inventive elements in that claim is disclosed in one reference. Yoshizawa does not disclose every inventive element in claim 1, and hence it is believed that the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 over this reference is not justified and hence should be reversed. Explained more in detail, the abrading particles as claimed in claim 1 are limited to be cluster particles comprising monocrystalline diamond particles. The importance of using monocrystalline diamond particles having many corners (unlike rounded polycrystalline diamond particles) is stressed in page 8 at lines 6-10 of the specification. Yoshizawa's diamond clusters are specifically described as being rounded (claim 1, [0009], [0014] and [0017], for example). Nowhere does Yoshizawa teach or even hint at using monocrystalline diamond particles having many corners. It is therefore to be concluded that claim 1 is not even obvious over Yoshizawa, much less anticipated thereby.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Brown. Brown does disclose a process of seeding by using seed particles that "may be of any regular or irregular geometric shape" (column 10, lines 14-15) but the diamond particles are for the purpose of electrostatic seeding by means of a spray (column 8, lines 44-51). The liquid that is used for dispersing these particles is said to be evaporated prior to arriving at the seed chamber (column 10, lines 31-34). The diamond particles are observable after the seeding by an electron microscope but they are no longer dispersed in a liquid (column 15, line 65 to column 16, line 13). In other words, Brown only mentions the diamond particles that could possibly become a constituent of slurry according to the present invention and does NOT teach these particles as CONSTITUTENT OF SLURRY. Moreover, Brown does not even suggest using monocrystalline diamond particles as cluster particles for slurry.

In summary, Brown simply refers to monocrystalline diamond particles for seeding on the surface of a base material and Yoshizawa hardly mentions using anything other than (rounded) polycrystalline diamond particles. Thus, it is not even obvious to combine the teaching of these two references.

It is therefore believed that the application is allowable in spite of the references cited by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,


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